

### **REMARKS**

No new matter is added by this amendment. The present application was filed on September 12, 2003 with original claims 1-73. By this amendment claims 1, 14 and 38 have been amended and new claims 74-81 have been added. The claims remaining in consideration are 1-81. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the specification because of a number of informalities. The specification has been amended to correct the informalities identified by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to the specification be withdrawn.

The specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically the Examiner states that certain of the claims contained limitation "an assigned type" which is not supported by the specification. However Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. With specific reference to paragraph [0075] and [0076], in one aspect of the present invention "the user is an employee of a gaming establishment" and typically has an assigned role (or type). Furthermore, the remote devices 50 may provide access to one or more types of data and/or one or more functions based on the assigned role of the user. Clearly, the specification and in particular these two paragraphs give support for the limitation of "an assigned type" within the claimed subject matter. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Claims 27 and 63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph as being indefinite. Particularly the Examiner states that the limitation of "an assigned type" is unclear. However, Applicants respectfully assert that the specification is clear as to the definition of an assigned type (see above). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the §112 rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 14 was rejected to because of an informality. Claim 14 has been amended to correct the informality identified by the Examiner. Therefore Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 6-11, 17, 28-31, 38, 43-47, 53 and 64-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,650,346 issued to John G. Jaeger et al. ("Jaeger"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Independent claims 1 and 38 have

been amended to more clearly identify the subject matter Applicants regard as their invention.

Amended independent claim 1 sets forth a remote system for use with a gaming system. The gaming system implements a player tracking system and has a plurality of electronic gaming devices. Each electronic gaming device has associated identification information including a unique identification member. A host computer is coupled to the plurality of electronic gaming devices by a network and includes a database for maintaining information related to the plurality of gaming devices. The remote system includes a remote device and a remote network interface. The remote device is embodied in a portable computer carried by a user for receiving identification information input by the user. The identification information input by the user includes an input identification number associated with one of the gaming devices. The remote network interface is couple to the remote device for receiving the identification information input by the user from the remote device, retrieving device information from the database as a function of identification information input by the user and returning the device information to the remote device.

As recognized by the Examiner, Jaeger discloses a system for classifying equipment in an asset management database for inventory. The Jaeger system gathers information or data into a centralized database. The information is input to the database via one or more service technician workstations. The information is then delivered back to the customer via the internet from a web server.

However the Jaeger system does not disclose or teach use of a remote device embodied in a portable computer which is or may be carried by a user. Since Jaeger does not include each and every limitation of amended independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that the §102(e) rejection is improper and must be withdrawn.

Claims 6-11, 17 and 28-31 are ultimately dependent upon allowable independent claim 1. Therefore for the reasons set forth above and based on their own merits Applicants respectfully assert that claims 6-11, 17 and 28-31 are also allowable.

Amended independent claim 38 sets forth a method for retrieving information related to a gaming system. The gaming system includes a plurality of electronic gaming devices and a host computer coupled to the plurality of electronic gaming devices by a

network. The host computer includes a database for maintaining information related to the plurality of gaming devices. The method includes the steps of providing a remote device embodied in a mobile computer carried by a user, receiving identification information at the remote device input by the user, and receiving the identification information from the remote device at the host computer, and retrieving the device information from the database as a function of the identification information. As discussed above Jaeger does not include at least the step of providing a remote device embodied in the mobile computer carried by a user, as required by amended independent claim 38. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the §102(e) rejection of independent claim 38 is improper and must be withdrawn.

Claims 43, 53, 64-67 are ultimately dependent upon allowable independent claim 38. Therefore for the reasons set forth above and based on their own merits Applicants respectfully assert that claims 43, 53, 64-67 are allowable.

Claims 2-5, 15, 39-42 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaeger as applied above in view of U.S. Patent 7,035,814 issued to Malkin et al. ("Malkin"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2-5, 15, 39-42 and 51 are ultimately dependent upon either allowable independent claim 1 or 38. Malkin does not overcome the deficiencies of Jaeger as described above. Therefore, for the reasons set forth above and based on their own merits Applicants respectfully assert that claims 2-5, 15, 39-42 and 51 are allowable.

Claims 12-14, 16, 18-27, 48-50, 52, 54-57 and 59-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaeger as applied above. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 12-14, 16, 18-27, 48-50, 52, 54-57 and 59-63 are ultimately dependent upon either allowable independent claim 1 or independent claim 38. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 12-14, 16, 18-27, 48-50, 52, 54-57 and 59-63 are allowable.

Claims 32-37 and 68-73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaeger in view of U.S. Patent 6,645,077 issued to Richard E. Rowe ("Rowe"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 32-37 and 68-73 are

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ultimately dependent upon allowable claim 1 or 38. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 32-37 and 68-73 are also allowable.

New independent claims 70-78 generally correspond to allowable independent claims 1 and 38. However certain elements of the system or method have been more positively set forth. Applicants respectfully assert that the system and method set forth in new independent claims 74 and 78 are not taught nor suggested by the art of record. New dependent claims 75-77 and 79-81 are dependent upon new independent claims 74 and 78, respectively, and are also allowable.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due, however, if any become required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2789 in the name of Howard & Howard Attorneys. Further and favorable reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

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Date

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